1:Haskins K-4,5 (1952-1954)1956 SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11

133
487 The three most significant channels enter the western Bay from north, west, and south. Of these the Rio Sergi, on the north, is navigable for the shortest distance--this estuary is navigable by river launch only to Conde, which is the approximate limit of salt water, but sailing boats penetrate to the cidade of Santo Amaro.

The lower Paraguaçu provides entrance westward deep into the Intermediate Hills and to the edge of the Crystalline Uplands and opens a route to a smaller bay--the Bacia do Iguape. Motor vessels can reach São Roque, Maragogipe, and Cachoeira-São Félix through this deeply incised channel.

The southern channel, broader but more shallow, passes between the island of Itaparica and the mainland and entering the estuary of the Jaguaripe extends as far as Nazaré, which is the head of navigation of the southern area peripheral to the Recôncavo.

The Bay is the central area of the southern Recôncavo. Two of the channels, the Paraguaçu and the Sergi, link parts of the Recôncavo with the Bay. The third, which leads to Nazaré, primarily connects the Bay with an area outside the Recôncavo.

133 Land - Summary. In the Recôncavo there is much flat land in the uplands, but the area in plains is relatively limited. In the uplands, and to a lesser extent in the hills and along the margins of the plains, the flat surface is subdivided into individual segments.

The largest single segment of relatively flat land in the Recôncavo is the coastal plains area north of the Bay. The other plains areas--the island of Itaparica and the small compartment north of the Bacia do Iguape--are smaller flat-surfaced segments. After these, the largest continuous flat surfaces are the extensive tabolsiros of the Tabular Uplands. Smaller tabular surfaces are

1:Haskins K-4,5 (1952-1954)1956 SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11

492 as a ton of cane through the rain-softened clay. It is pulled, depend-
493 ing upon the load and the condition of the route, by four, six, or eight oxen. It has no brakes, although occasionally a long pole is used as a drag. The cart and the team are managed by two people, a man who rides the cart, goads the wheel oxen, and shouts directions, and a boy who runs in front and turns the lead oxen with a long slender pole. As has been seen, a very large number of oxen are maintained on the sugar cane plantations and the accessory ranches of the area. Donkeys
492 are used in the cane area for lesser tasks, such as carrying seed cane, tools, and subsistence products; both horses and mules are used for riding--usually the plantation foremen ride the patient, slow-moving mules, while the owners and administrators ride the small, agile horses which come from the sertão. In most other parts of the Recôncavo, in the littoral forest and in the dry caatinga, the donkey and mule are the universal beasts of burden.

491 One município of the Recôncavo--Coração de Maria--has no motor
[492] roads, and is thus served only by pack animals. The cidades of all the other municípios are on highways of some sort, but usually only a single road passes directly across the município. The back-country
• 487 of the municípios, which in this sense includes about nine-tenths of the total area, is criss-crossed with a network of trails. Some of these are wide enough for an ox cart, or in very good weather, for a jeep to pass through. Many others are only narrow paths winding through the second growth and passing between cultivated fields.

489 Land transportation between the various parts of the Recôncavo
433 has less direct agricultural importance than in the United States, since
438 so much of the agricultural produce is consumed within the município
439 in which it is grown. Those agricultural products, such as tobacco
497 or sugar, which are destined for non-local or external markets are
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[TEXT CONTINUED ON PAGE 373]

1:Haskins K-4,5 (1952-1954)1956 SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11

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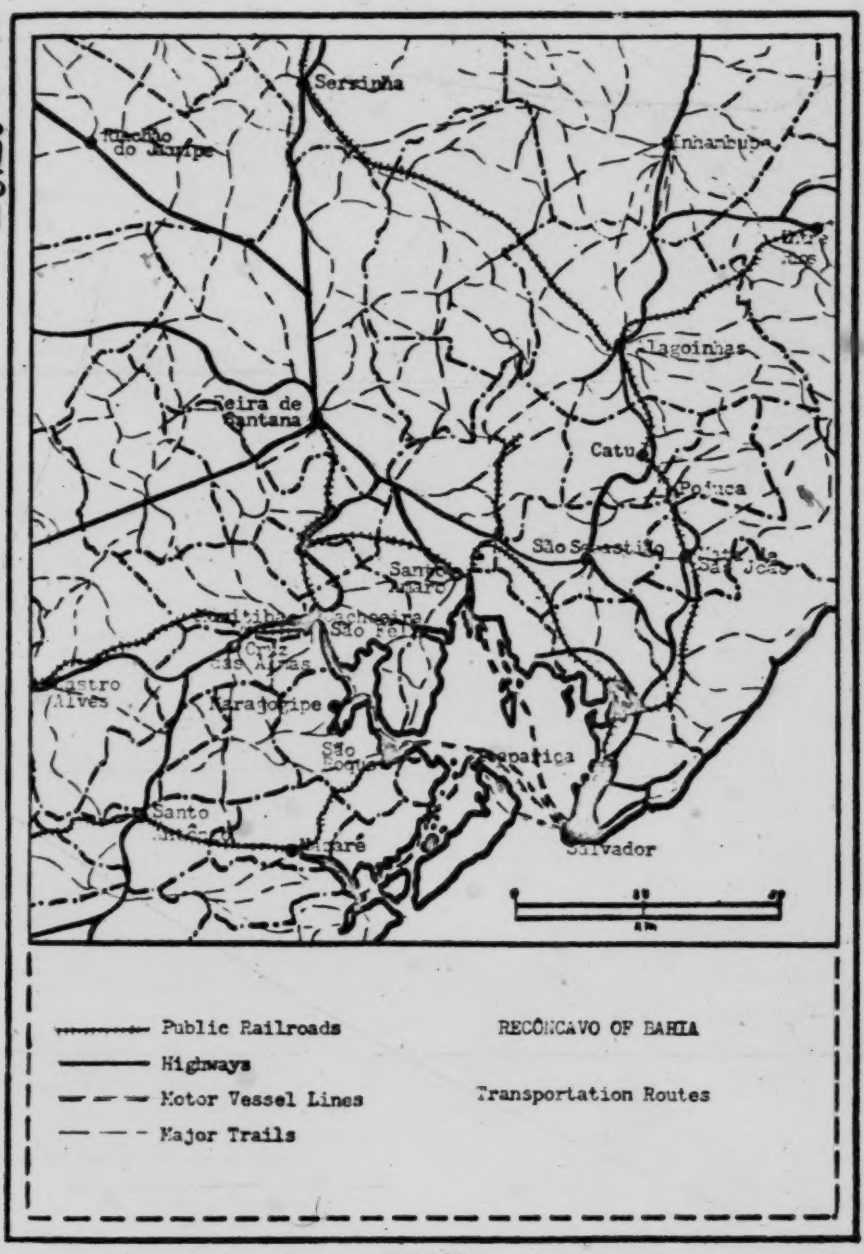

MAP 129

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[249] tant centers of colonial life, and until 1763 Salvador was the capital of the Portuguese colony.

The Recôncavo helped to make Brasil a unique part of the Portuguese empire in the sixteenth century. Brazil was different from any of the other Portuguese colonies, for its wealth proved to lie in agriculture rather than in trade, as
133 was the case in India and Africa. The Bay of All Saints, with
[361] a circumference of 200 kilometers, is in effect an inland sea, the entrance to which can be guarded from the heights on which the city of Salvador is situated. There are a number of picturesque islands throughout the bay, with good beaches and landing facilities. Many small rivers empty into the bay, and numerous creeks navigable at high tide extend further inland
• [487] along its shores. The presence of such a large network of navigable waters was an important factor in the rapid development of the Recôncavo, providing easy and inexpensive transportation of sugar to the point of shipment to Europe.

132 The climate is semitropical, with two seasons. Summer, from September to sometime in March, is relatively dry, dotted by showers and thunderstorms and cooled by fresh breezes blowing in from the Atlantic. Winter begins in April, lasting until August or September, the exact time of change differing from year to year. This season is marked by continued rain, usually a soft, constantly falling drizzle or light rain, interspersed with heavy showers, as front after front moves in from the Atlantic, dropping its moisture before being pushed upward by the abruptly rising land which surrounds the Recôncavo. According to statistics for the years 1914 to 1938, the months of minimum rainfall are October, November, and December; during this time the average rainfall was 11.81 inches. The period of maximum rainfall is April, May, and June, with an average of 35.83 inches for the three-month period. The yearly average from 1914 to 1938 was 65.93 inches.[1] The temperature range is from 70 to 90 degrees Fahrenheit.

134 The soil of the Recôncavo, especially that of the sugar-Recôncavo, is extraordinarily fertile. It is a heavy black soil, known as massapê, approximately 6 inches to 2 feet thick, covering a clayey subsoil, known locally as taguá. Here and there are outcroppings of sand and mixtures of sand with clay.

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1. Atlas pluviometrico do Brasil (Rio de Janeiro, 1914-1938).

2: Hutchinson E-4, 8 (1950-1951) 1957 SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11
VILA RECÔNCAVO

438 Centro, situated on the banks of a navigable river which
175 empties into the Bay in front of the town of Vila Recôncavo,
361 was in a good position to serve the entire back region of the
[634] Recôncavo. As a county it now comprises 1,180 square kilo-
[131] meters. As a port, Centro served two purposes in the early
[504] eighteenth century. A great deal of produce and many persons
passed through it, including the families of sugar-cane grow-
ers from other regions of the Recôncavo; and it also served
as a "gateway to the West" at a time when western Bahia and
Minas Gerais were being opened and the gold and diamond
rushes were in progress. Centro was the end of navigable
[487] waters and the beginning of one of the overland routes lead-
[634] ing to the uplands of the sertão and the mining areas of the
west. As Centro grew, Vila Recôncavo stagnated. In 1833
Centro was made judicial center (cabeça de comarca) of the
district and Vila Recôncavo became part of this judicial dis-
trict, thereby losing its prominence as the center of juris-
diction for the interior zone of the Recôncavo. Commercially,
Vila Recôncavo was soon overshadowed by Centro. In 1802,
Vilhena wrote:

> . . . In Centro there is a great deal of commerce, because of the amount of sugar, tobacco, and the number of distilleries and of Mineiros [miners and people from the state of Minas Gerais] who arrive there. Continuing along the bank of the river one finds Vila Recôncavo, which in spite of enough sugar passing through it, always had a weak commerce, and the town is known among all the others as the town of the least traffic.[8]

He says later:

175 In spite of its antiquity, Vila Recôncavo has few in-
361 habitants, and most of them poor, although through-
438 out the termo there are many good families of noble
433 people, rich through the products of their large engen-
hos, from which they take much and excellent sugar,
the only commerce of that town; in it also there is fish-
ing for a little sardinelike fish called xangó and a large
quantity of good and large shrimp, which is the main

8. Ibid., Letter I, p. 32 (author's translation).

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In the very large *usinas*, the mill hands and even the field hands are modern industrial workers. They are employees of a large industrial corporation and are protected at least theoretically by the labour laws of the nation. The highly personalized relationship between the plantation workers and the owner-administrator of his own plantation, which persisted from the slave era, has been replaced on the larger *usinas* by the impersonal employee-employer relationship of the modern industrial age. Today, modern plantations and small towns have electricity; there is modern housing for workmen; the State and even the sugar companies provide medical aid; there are primary schools both in the small towns and on many plantations; recreation facilities are found in the towns and provided by the *usinas*; and the sugar-cane experimental station situated in the area constantly urges fertilization of the land and modern techniques and methods of sugar-cane production. But the older and more traditional patterns exist side by side with the new, and each of them influences the relations among the racial groups of the zone.

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III. Vila Recôncavo is a small town on the Bay of All Saints. The rural area around it, which lies within the social and economic orbit of the town and which is the unit under consideration, comprises some 80 square kilometres, or slightly less than half the entire area of the county of which the town of Vila Recôncavo is the county seat.[1]

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It this area there are 14 plantations, three of which nowadays plant very little sugar cane. Parts of the town itself are built on the land of one of these plantations, and the rest of the town area is owned in small lots by private individuals or by the Church. Although Vila Recôncavo is the county seat, local government is the only important function which it fulfils for the surrounding area. It is not used as a shipping point, either for receiving supplies from the outside or for sending sugar to the outside. *Braços do mar*, or inlets of the bay, go to many of the plantations and are deep enough for the *saveiros* (shallow draft sailboats) used on the bay for transport. Many of the plantations have direct connexion with Salvador. Commerce in Vila Recôncavo is almost entirely limited to supplying the 1,462 inhabitants of the town and of some small islands and of one community near by which is not devoted to sugar production. It is not the major supply source even for these groups which live near enough to another and far larger commercial centre where they prefer to do their marketing. The *prefeito* or mayor of the county is rarely a resident of the town itself. Rather he is usually a planter of the surrounding area. He goes into town to do municipal business,

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[1] Both the town and the county bear the name of Vila Recôncavo.

4: Pierson Z-4, 5 (1935-1937) 1967
SO11 Bahia Brazilians SO11

[City of Salvador]

in 1822, in the politics of the Empire, a role similar to that assumed by Minas Geraes, São Paulo, and Rio Grande do Sul in the Republic following 1889. In fact, she has been called "the Brazilian Virginia." Until 1907 Bahia was also the religious center of the Brazilian nation. Her archbishop was the head of the Roman Catholic church in Brazil, and the religious orders maintained here their principal representatives. Thus in the economic, political, and religious life of Brazil, Bahia boasts a long tradition of distinction and prestige.

The present city is about the size of Indianapolis or Seattle.[6] It nestles along the eastern rim of a huge bay, Bahia de Todos os Santos. The bay is formed by the projection out into the ocean of Cape Santo Antonio, which, on its western side, breaks rather sharply almost at the water's edge, exposing a bold promontory approximately three hundred feet in height which parallels for some two to three miles the rim of the bay. The city clings to the narrow shelf between the bay and the cliff and then sprawls up over this sizable barrier and spreads out along the ridges and into the valleys to the east and north, where centuries of erosion have carved a one-time flat plain into alternating crests and steep-sloping depressions.

Bahia is thus divided by a natural barrier into a lower and an upper city, into a Cidade Baixa and a Cidade Alta, as the two parts are locally called; the one connected with the other by steep, winding streets paved with cobblestones, by inclined planes and modern hydraulic elevators, or by numerous well-worn footpaths. In the lower city lies, of course,

[6] An estimate by the state government gave for the city of Bahia on December 31, 1934, a population of 352,244 (*Annuario estatistico da Bahia, 1934*, p. 131). The federal census of 1920 gave for Bahia City 283,422 (*Recenseamento do Brasil, 1920*, Vol. IV: *População*, Book I, p. xxiv).

4: Pierson Z-4, 5 (1935-1937) 1967
SOil Bahia Brazilians SOil

[City of Salvador]

The valleys, on the other hand, afford less comfortable, less healthful, less convenient, and, consequently, less expensive residential locations. Here the regularly laid out streets and paving disappear. The inhabitants get about by way of footpaths, the red clay of which becomes slippery after a tropical downpour and quite treacherous on the steeper slopes. Here live the lower classes. Dwellings are simple mud huts constructed of a sapling framework over which puddled clay has been spread and allowed to dry. If the owner's income has permitted, the rough exterior of the dwellings has been smoothed off and a lime wash in pale tints of pink, blue, green, or yellow added. The floor is commonly of earth, neatly sanded at regular intervals with fresh *areia* from the seashore. The roof of such dwellings is usually of palm fronds and may be slightly raised at the gable to permit the more ready exit of smoke from the housewife's fire. The furniture ordinarily consists of rude benches or stools, perhaps a cheap chair, a rough table, and cots, or, more commonly, straw mats for sleeping. A Standard Oil Company can whose top and bottom have been removed is used for a stove. Furnishings include an unpretentious niche with a small image of the family's patron saint, a candle, perhaps an almanac, and a rude iron support for washbasin and pitcher of water. Utensils are usually of baked clay and quite simple in design.

In respect to economic level, education, and, to some extent, religion, the inhabitants of these lower-class areas diverge widely from those of the ridges. They are usually illiterate, although some of the children are now being enrolled in government-sponsored schools. Communication is ordinarily by word of mouth, seldom by newspaper, book, or telephone. Conversation is carried on in the Portuguese